

REMARKS

The courtesy of Examiner Huson in granting a telephone interview on April 4, 2006 is sincerely appreciated. During the interview, differences between the present invention and the disclosure of Cole were discussed. No agreement was reached as to the allowance of any of the claims. However, the Examiner did suggest that the claims be amended to more positively recite the features of the mold parts that form the molded product. The independent claims presented herein have been so amended.

The Summary of the Invention portion of the Specification is amended to be consistent with the scope of the amended independent claims.

Claim Rejections -35 USC §102

The rejection of Claims 1-3 and 12-13 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Cole is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons:

Independent Claim 1 and dependent Claims 2 and 3 are patentable over Cole for at least the reason of reciting a manufacturing process step of removing a portion of the closed end of a molded product that has one open end and one closed end.

Independent Claim 12 dependent Claims 13 and 14 are patentable over Cole for at least the reason of reciting manufacturing means for removing a portion of the closed end of a molded product that has one open end and one closed end.

Cole's manufactured product is a molded product having one closed end and one open end.

Cole's product is manufactured by a process that does not include a step of removing a portion of a closed end of a molded product. The removal of a portion of a closed end of Cole's molded product is not accomplished by manufacturing means, but rather by hand removal of the tear strip 26.

Although the closed end of Cole's molded product is eventually removed, such removal occurs incident to the use of the molded product, not during the manufacture thereof.

Claim Rejections -35 USC §103

The rejection of Claims 4, 14 and 15 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cole is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons:

Claims 4 and 15 are patentable over Cole for at least the reason of reciting:

- the formation of threads at the outside of one end of the product, and
- a core mold part that includes both (i) a generally cylindrical portion and (ii) an inner core that is movable relative to the generally cylindrical portion for forming a portion of the product lying inside the thread when the inner core is protracted.

Cole's product does not have threads at the outside of one end of the product. The threads of Cole's product are in the mid-portion not at one end.

Cole's core mold part does not include both (ii) a generally cylindrical section and (ii) an inner core that is movable relative to the generally cylindrical portion for forming a portion of the product lying inside the thread when the inner core is protracted.

Claim 14 is patentable over Cole for at least the same reasons as set forth above the allowance of Claim 12, upon which Claim 14 depends.

Conclusion

Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-4 and 12-15 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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